

**To: Members of the State Board of  
Education & Early Development**

**December 6, 2023**

**From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner**

**Agenda Item: 10B**

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**◆ ISSUE**

The board is being asked to open a period of public comment on proposed amendments to 4 AAC 06.775 (a), administering statewide assessments to students with disabilities. The amendments update the *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments*, which define the assessment criteria of all Statewide Alaska Assessments.

**◆ BACKGROUND**

- The *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments* were last updated in March 2022.
- In July 2023, the Alaska Reads Act went into effect, a component of which is a required early literacy screener to be administered statewide.
- The State selected mCLASS with DIBELS 8<sup>th</sup> edition in partnership with Amplify, as our state-adopted early literacy screener. mCLASS will be administered in 51 districts across the state this school year.
- Between July and August 2023, DEED worked with Amplify to update the *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments* to reflect this new assessment.
- The final document was completed in August 2023.
- The proposed regulations and proposed *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments*, can be found behind the cover memo to Agenda Item 5B. In addition, to allow for an easier review of the changes made, a track changes version of the proposed *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments* can also be found behind the cover memo for Agenda Item 5B.
- Dr. Elizabeth Greninger, Assessments Administrator; Kelly Manning, Deputy Director, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence; and Carol Boatman, Director of Alyeska Reading Institute and Division of Innovation and Education Excellence, will be present to brief the board.

**◆ OPTIONS**

Open a period of public comment on the proposed regulation changes.  
Amend the proposed regulations and open a period of public comment.  
Seek more information.

**◆ ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION**

Open a period of public comment on the proposed regulation changes.

**◆ SUGGESTED MOTION**

I move the State Board of Education and Early Development open a period of public comment on amendments to 4 AAC 06.775 (a), administering statewide assessments to students with disabilities, whereby an updated version of the *Participation Guidelines for Inclusion of Alaska Students in State Assessments* is proposed to be adopted by reference.